

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for monitoring at least a part of an animal related space, comprising a controllable device (2, 22) and at least one image capturing device (14, 15) for generating and supplying captured image data regarding said animal related space,

characterised in that:

- said image capturing device (14, 15) is associated with a communications port (24) connectible to a telecommunications network (26);

- a remote control device (28) is associated with a further communications port (30) connectible to said telecommunications network (26);

- said image capturing device (14, 15) is connectible to said remote control device (28) via said telecommunications network (26);

- said remote control device (28) is adapted to receive said captured image data;

- said remote control device (28) is associated with a display unit (32) for allowing viewing of said captured image data;

- a data input means (34) is associated with said remote control device (28), for entering a control instruction;

- said remote control device (28) is adapted to output said control instruction via said further communications port (30); and,

- said controllable device (2, 22) is arranged to be interactively manipulated by said remote control device (28) in response to said control instruction, wherein,

a control means (16) is provided between said controllable device (2, 22) and said communications port (24), said controllable device (2, 22) being automatically controlled by said control means (16),

said control means (16) is provided with a display unit for allowing viewing of said captured image data,

a local data input means is associated with said control means (16), for locally entering a control instruction,
and

a switch means (36) is provided for allowing by-pass of said control means (16) to allow a user to choose between i) local manual or automatic control of said controllable device and ii) remote manual or automatic control of said controllable device.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus for monitoring at least a part of an animal related space, comprising a controllable device (2, 22), and at least one image capturing device (14, 15) for generating and supplying captured image data regarding said animal related space, characterised in that:

- said image capturing device (14, 15) is associated with a communications port (24) connectible to a telecommunications network (26), for association of said image capturing device (14, 15) with a remote control device (28) connectible to said telecommunications network and adapted to receive said captured image data, wherein,

a control means (16) is provided between said controllable device (2, 22) and said communications port (24), said controllable device (2, 22) being automatically controlled by said control means (16),

said control means (16) is provided with a display unit for allowing viewing of said captured image data,

a local data input means is associated with said control means (16), for locally entering a control instruction of said image capturing device and said controllable device, and

a switch means (36) is provided for allowing by-pass of said control means (16) to allow a user to choose between i) local manual or automatic control and ii) remote manual or

automatic control of either of said image capturing device and said controllable device.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device (2, 22) is associated with said communications port (24).

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein said control means (16) is provided between said image capturing device (14, 15) and said communications port (24), said image capturing device being automatically controllable by said control means.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein [[a]] said switch means (36) allows a user to choose between i) local manual or automatic control and ii) remote manual or automatic control of either of said image capturing device and said controllable device ~~is provided for allowing by pass of said control means (16) to allow a user for either local or remote, automatic or manual, control of said controllable device.~~

7. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein said control means (16), by operation of said switch means (36), is switchable between: i) a remote control mode for receiving said control instruction from said remote control device, said controllable device being adapted to perform

an operation in response to said remote control device via said control means, and ii) a local control mode from commands input from the local data input means.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein either of said remote control device (28) and said control means (16) is adapted to generate an alerting signal if an abnormal situation is established.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said animal related space (18) comprises an animal space provided with said controllable device (2, 22).

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said animal related space (18) comprises an animal gateway provided with said controllable device (2, 22).

11. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device (2, 22) comprises an openable and closeable gate, a position of said gate is established by said image capturing device (15).

12. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device comprises a movable robot arm (4) provided with a gripper (6).

13. (original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said image capturing device (14) is arranged on said robot arm (4).

14. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a position of a teat of an animal is established by said image capturing device (14), for allowing attachment of a teatcup on said teat.

15. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein it further comprises a milking equipment provided with at least one teatcup (8) associated with a pulsator (12), adapted to be controlled by said remote control device (28).

16. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said teatcup is associated with a vacuum source (10) via a valve (9), said valve being adapted to be operated in response to said remote control device (28).

17. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device comprises a driving means (15a) with a turnable axle connectible to said image capturing device (15).

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controllable device comprises a driving means (15c) for a zoom lens (15b) arranged on said image capturing device (15).

19. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein analysis of an image captured by said image capture device is performed by said control means (16, 17, 23).

20. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein analysis of an image captured by said image capture device is performed by said remote control device (28).

21. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said remote control device (28) is provided with a display unit (32) for allowing viewing of said captured image data, and wherein a data input means (34) is associated with said remote control device (28), for entering a control instruction.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said remote control device (28) comprises a microphone and/or loudspeaker.

24. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said animal related space comprises a microphone and/or loudspeaker.

25. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display unit (32) can display an image of an animal wherein said image is captured by an image capturing device (14, 15).

26. (previously presented) A remote control device (28) adapted to receive captured image data comprising a communications port (30), via which said control instruction is to be output, for interactively manipulating a controllable device (2, 22) of the apparatus according to claim 1.

27. (currently amended) A method of monitoring at least a part of an animal related space, comprising a controllable device (2,22) and at least one image capturing device (14, 15) for generating and supplying captured image data regarding said animal related space, characterised by:

- connecting said image capturing device (14, 15) to a communications port (24) for allowing connection to a telecommunications network (26);

- connecting a remote control device (28) to a further communications port (30) for allowing connection to said telecommunications network (26);

- adapting said remote control device (28) to receive said captured image data;

- providing said remote control device (28) with a display unit (32);

- entering a control instruction in a data input means (34) associated with said remote control device (28);

- transmitting said control instruction via said further communications port (30); and,

- interactively manipulating said controllable device (2, 22) by said remote control device (28) in response to said control instruction,

including automatically controlling said controllable device (2, 22) by means of a control means (16) provided between said controllable device (2, 22) and said communications port (24) and,

including by-passing said control means (16) by means of a switch means (36).

28. (original) A method according to claim 27, including associating said controllable device (2, 22) with said communications port (24).

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein control of said controllable device is selectable between any of remote automatic control, remote manual control, local automatic control, and local manual control.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including automatically controlling said image capturing device (14, 15) by means of said control means (16), provided between said image capturing device and said communications port (24).

31. (currently amended) A method according to claim 27, ~~including~~ wherein, by-passing said control means (16) by means of a switch means (36) allows a user to choose between i) local

manual or automatic control and ii) remote manual or automatic control of either of said image capturing device and said controllable device.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including:

- switching said control means (16) to a remote control mode;

- allowing said control means (16) to receive said control instruction from said remote control device (28);

performing an operation in response to said remote control device (28) via said control means (16).

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including generating an alerting signal if either of said control means (16) and said remote control device (28) establishes an abnormal situation.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including performing image analysis by means of said control means (16) of an image captured by said image capture device (14, 15).

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including viewing said captured image data in a display unit (16a) associated with said control means (16), and locally entering a control instruction in a local data input means (16b) associated with said control means (16).

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including performing image analysis by means of said remote control device (28) of an image captured by said image capture device (14, 15).

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, including viewing said captured image data in a display unit (32) associated with said remote control device (28), and entering a control instruction in a data input means (32) associated with said remote control device (28).

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27 including the steps of:

directing at least one image capturing device (14, 15) towards an animal in said animal related space and capturing an image of said animal.

39. (original) A method according to claim 38 including the steps of:

analysing said image by said control unit (16) or remote control means (28);

automatically determining appropriate control action by said control unit (16) or remote control means (28); and

performing said control action under the control of a control program in said control unit (16) or said remote control means (28).

40. (original) A method according to claim 38 including the step of:

displaying said image of said animal on at least one said display unit (32).